Increase in Defence Budget

1241. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportionate increase in Defence Budget during the current year in comparison to the last five years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to modernise the forces keeping in view the threat perception in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The proportionate increase in Defence Budget within the current financial year in comparison to past five years is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Actuals/Allocation	Percentage increase over earlier year
1996-1997	29505.08	9.86
1997-1998	35277.99	19.57
1998-1999	39897.58	13.10
1999-2000	47070.63	17.98
2000-2001 (RE)	54460.91	15.70
2001-2002 (BE)	62000.00	13.84

(b) Modernising the Forces is a continuous process which *inter-alia* includes acquisition of new platforms and weapon systems, upgradation of existing ones and induction of force multipliers.